



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Harpers Ferry National  
Historical Park

P.O. Box 65  
Harpers Ferry, WV

304-535-6224 phone  
304-535-6244 fax

---

## Harpers Ferry NHP News Release

**Release date:** Immediately  
**Contact(s):** Todd Bolton  
**Phone number:** 304-535-6026  
**Date:** June 13, 2013

---

### *The 150th Anniversary of the Birth of West Virginia*

---

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park invites the public to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of West Virginia by participating in two special events. On Thursday, June 20, 2013, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will host a Naturalization Program beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Lower Town area. Approximately twenty new citizens will take the oath of citizenship in one of our nation's most unique historical settings. "National parks belong to all Americans," said Harpers Ferry Superintendent Rebecca Harriett, "so what better way to welcome a new generation of American citizens than in our country's most significant places like Harpers Ferry National Historical Park." Mr. James Hayney, portraying President Abraham Lincoln, will also speak.

Two days later, on Saturday, June 22, 2013, the park will present a Civil War Sesquicentennial event entitled, *The Birth of a State: 150th Anniversary of West Virginia*. Men from the western mountains of Virginia fought on both sides during the Civil War, although the majority remained true to the Union. Jefferson County, however, home to Harpers Ferry, spurned the Union and embraced the Confederacy. This one day event will focus on the 1863 vote for statehood and the establishment of West Virginia as the 35th state in the Union. Activities include a 19<sup>th</sup>-century baseball game, special ranger-conducted programs, family & youth activities and living history programs. For further information, call Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at (304)535-6029.

### *The Birth of a State: 150th Anniversary of West Virginia* Saturday, June 22, 2013

11:00 AM -11:30 AM  
*Statehood*

#### *Electing to Leave Virginia: Steps to West Virginia*

Find out how and where to vote for or against the new state.

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

#### *Voting for Statehood*

Cast your vote! Will West Virginia become the 35th State of the Union?

**-More-**

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

***Family & Youth Activities***

Dress up and learn the Civil War drill! Be a 19<sup>th</sup> century reporter! Fun for the whole family!

12:00 AM - 12:30 PM

***The Birth of a State***

Explore how and why West Virginia was born.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

***Play Ball!***

Enjoy America's favorite past time during this 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball game.

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

***The Guns of Harpers Ferry***

Discover how Harpers Ferry survived during the Civil War and experience the sight and sound of the weapons that made Harpers Ferry famous.

4: 00 PM

***Election Results***

Learn the fate of Virginia's western counties and enjoy Election Day Cake!